

# **HANSEN AGGREGATES AND GRAVEL SANTA MARGARITA PLANT EXTENSION OF OPERATING HOURS**

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## ***Environmental Impact Report Addendum***

**DRC2005-00004  
ED05-182**

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Prepared by:  
County of San Luis Obispo  
Environmental & Resource Management Division

HANSEN AGGREGATES AND GRAVEL - SANTA MARGARITA PLANT  
EXTENSION OF OPERATING HOURS  
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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
	A. Project Description	1
	B. Environmental Document	1
	C. Background	1
	D. EIR Addendum	2
2.0	ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	2
3.0	CONCLUSION	4

Appendices

APPENDIX A – CEQA Guidelines

APPENDIX B – Noise Study

APPENDIX C – Graphics

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Project Description**

The project is a request for a conditional use permit to amend the previously approved Development Plan (which established existing hours of operation for the sand and gravel operation) and allow a 5 a.m. start time (vs. 7 a.m.) for the secondary crusher only, between June 15<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>. The primary reason stated by the applicant for this request is to take advantage of the reduced electrical costs during this time of the day and work with Pacific Gas and Electric to utilize power in non-peak periods.. All plant vehicles used between 5 am and 7 am would switch their audible back-up warning signal to strobe lights being used in their place. No other aspect of the operation is proposed for change (e.g., no additional truck trips on public roads being proposed, etc.).

To better understand this part of the operation, the secondary crusher's purpose is to further reduce the size of partially processed material from the primary crusher (six inch material) to an aggregate size of 1.5 inches or smaller and then sorted into piles. Typical volume is about 270 tons per hour. This part of the operation is fed by two belt loaders coming from the "surge" pile. The "surge" pile is generated by the primary crusher (which will not be in operation during the proposed expanded hours). No additional vehicles are needed or proposed to process the secondary crusher material during 5 am to 7 am.

The subject property is within the Rural Lands land use category. The plant (including the secondary crusher) is located approximately 8,000 feet directly east of El Camino Real and Garden Farms, approximately two miles north of the village of Santa Margarita, in the Salinas River planning area.

### **B. Environmental Document**

The proposed request is subject to CEQA. This Addendum and the 1999 Final EIR (Southern Pacific Milling Company) will make up the environmental documentation for the proposed project.

### **C. Background**

On February 11, 1999, the Planning Commission certified the So. Pacific Milling Company – Extension of Hours Final EIR. At that time, the operation was owned by Southern Pacific Milling Company. Subsequently, it was controlled by Kaiser Sand and Gravel. Currently, Hansen Aggregates and Gravel Company is the owner. The changes in operating hours evaluated in this EIR (Southern Pacific Milling Company) were as follows:

- *an expansion of the allowable hours of activity to a maximum of 16 hours of asphalt batch plant operation and associated trucking within the 24-hour time period beginning and ending at 6:00 a.m., for an unspecified 80 days in a year. (Currently, the asphalt batch plant operation is restricted to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.) The 16 hours of plant operation would not necessarily occur consecutively within the 24-hour time period. Additionally, the 80 days of extended operating hours would not necessarily occur on consecutive days but would be utilized as needed by S.P. Milling;*

- *an earlier start time for asphalt operations, beginning at 5:00 a.m. instead of the current 7:00 a.m., for an unspecified 70 days per year. (Asphalt operations would end by 8:00 p.m. on these days as currently allowed.) These 70 days are in addition to the 80 days described above, resulting in a potential total of 150 days of extended operating hours at the asphalt batch plant;*
- *an earlier start time for rock and recycle sales, beginning at 5:00 a.m. instead of the current 7:00 a.m., for an unspecified 150 days per year, which could result in up to 300 days of extended operation. (Rock and recycle sales would end by 8:00 p.m. on these days as currently allowed.) The remainder of the time, rock and recycle sales would continue to operate the same as the rock and recycle plants. The rock and recycle plants will continue to operate as is currently allowed between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.*

*The objective of S.P. Milling, Company is to expand the asphalt batch plant's marketability in the area by becoming more competitive with other plant operators that are not subject to time limits.*

Most of these components were approved when brought before the Planning Commission on February 11, 1999.

As a part of that approval process, the applicant was required to oversee and respond to public complaints about the plant.

## **D. EIR Addendum**

Per Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines, an Addendum to a previously-certified EIR may be prepared, where:

- Some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 (see Appendix A) calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred;
- An addendum need not be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the final EIR;
- The decision making body shall consider the addendum with the final EIR prior to making a decision on the project; and
- A brief explanation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162 (see Appendix A) is included in the addendum to an EIR, the lead agency's findings on the project, or elsewhere in the record.

The purpose of this EIR addendum is to show how each of the proposed changes: 1) fit within the analysis of the previously certified EIR, 2) is not substantially different than what was evaluated in the certified EIR, or 3) is considered an additional mitigation measure to reduce potential impacts.

## **2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

The following analysis will look at each of the proposed amendments and either compare with the previously certified EIR, or show how the proposed change does not result in any substantial change from what was considered in the certified EIR. Based on the project description, the only potential new environmental impact identified would be additional stationary noise during “nighttime” hours (10 pm to 7 am).

## 2.1 NOISE

**Setting.** Please refer to the 1999 EIR for detailed discussion about general noise terms, theories, and county policies (see pages 23 through 28).

The closest sensitive noise receptor (residence) is approximately 4,400 feet to the east. The village of Garden Farms is about 7,000 feet to the west and Santa Margarita is about 8,500 feet to the southwest.

The plant's primary sources of loud stationary noise are generated from the rock plant, the primary crusher and the secondary crusher. The Rock Plant consists of extracting of the rock and material from the ground. The primary crusher, consisting of \_\_\_\_, takes the larger rock material and breaks into smaller material so that it can fit into the secondary crusher. The secondary crusher further breaks down this material into smaller useable sizes, which is then sorted and stockpiled by size.

Due to the location of the secondary crusher being nestled within a canyon bottom it is acoustically "protected" on three sides by the canyon walls. The Secondary Crusher has no direct line of site to either the village of Garden Farms or the community of Santa Margarita due to existing topography.

The Noise Element identifies 45 dBA Leq as the acceptable stationary threshold for nighttime noise (10 pm to 7 am).

A noise study was prepared (Karl Mikel, Morro Group; May 8, 2006 – see Appendix B) to determine ambient noise levels at 5 am, as well as determine the expected noise levels from operation of the secondary crusher. All noise measurements were taken from the closest residence. Ambient noise levels (no active plant operations) at 5 am were measured at 30.5 dBA.

**Impacts.** Based on the noise study, plant operation measurements were taken between 6:30 am to 8 am at the closest residence. When comparing the loud noise generating components of the plant, each contributed the following decibels above the ambient noise level:

- Primary Crusher 2.5 dBA Leq
- **Secondary Crusher 4.0 dBA Leq**
- Both Crushers 5.0 dBA Leq
- Rock Plant & Secondary 6.0 dBA Leq
- Rock Plant, Secondary & Primary 6.5 dBA Leq

When the 4.0 dBA Leq (Secondary Crusher) is added to the 30.5 dBA Leq (ambient noise level), the resulting 34.5 dBA Leq is well below the 45 dBA Leq threshold. It should be noted that while not considered significant, this four-decibel increase is considered a "discernable" or noticeable increase to the human ear (a 3.0 decibel or more increase is considered a discernable difference).

The several vehicles that will be moving the raw material and finished product to and from stockpiles within the project boundaries during the crushing activity will use strobe lights in lieu of audible warning beeps when backing up (which is an existing condition of approval). Also, vehicle engine noise is much less than that of the secondary crusher. Therefore, the associated vehicles will not add to the on-site noise when the secondary crusher is operating.

No additional off-site trucks are proposed between the hours of 5 am and 7 am.

Unless as allowed through previously approved conditions for limited applications, the Rock Plant and Primary Crusher will not be operating between 5 am and 7 am.

## **2.2 VISUAL IMPACT/LIGHT AND GLARE**

The Secondary Crusher already exists and is fully operational. Night lighting has already been installed to provide for the crusher and associated activities to be operational during the shorter days of winter. The previous conditions of approval required that all night lighting be located down and in towards the site. In addition, the crusher's canyon location provides natural blocking of direct lighting on three sides. Therefore, no additional visual impacts have been identified and no additional mitigation measures are considered necessary.

## **3.0 CONCLUSION**

Based on the above discussion, the proposed extended hours for the secondary crusher, and supporting activities, will not result in any new significant noise impacts. Therefore, no new mitigation measures are considered necessary, and the EIR addendum is appropriate for this proposed project.

# **APPENDIX A**

## **CEQA Guidelines Excerpts**

**CEQA GUIDELINES EXCERPT – SECTION 15162.** Subsequent EIRs and Negative Declarations

(a) When an EIR has been certified or a negative declaration adopted for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

- (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:

- (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;
- (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
- (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
- (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

(b) If changes to a project or its circumstances occur or new information becomes available after adoption of a negative declaration, the lead agency shall prepare a subsequent EIR if required under subdivision (a). Otherwise the lead agency shall determine whether to prepare a subsequent negative declaration, an addendum, or no further documentation.

(c) Once a project has been approved, the lead agency's role in project approval is completed, unless further discretionary approval on that project is required. Information appearing after an approval does not require reopening of that approval. If after the project is approved, any of the conditions described in subdivision (a) occurs, a subsequent EIR or negative declaration shall only be prepared by the public agency which grants the next discretionary approval for the project, if any. In this situation no other responsible agency shall grant an approval for the project until the subsequent EIR has been certified or subsequent negative declaration adopted.

(d) A subsequent EIR or subsequent negative declaration shall be given the same notice and public review as required under Section 15087 or Section 15072. A subsequent EIR or negative declaration shall state where the previous document is available and can be reviewed.



## **APPENDIX B**

### **NOISE ANALYSIS**

**Date:** May 8, 2006  
**To:** MBA Planning Group  
**Attn:** Andrew Merriam  
**Re:** Noise study for Hanson Aggregate



**MORRO**  
**GROUP, INC.**  
Environmental Services

Mr. Andrew Merriam,

A noise investigation has been conducted for the proposed extension of operating hours of the secondary crusher at the Hanson Aggregates Rock Quarry, located in Santa Margarita, California. Karl Mikel, Environmental Engineer and County approved acoustical consultant with Morro Group, Inc., has prepared this noise study memo at the request of MBA Planning Group to document potential stationary noise impacts the expanded operating hours may have on existing nearby sensitive residential noise receptors. This memo is intended for use by County of San Luis Obispo (County) during the permitting phase of the project.

Hanson Aggregates is seeking to extend its allowable operating hours for its Secondary Crushing facility from the current 7:00 AM requirement to 5:00 AM at times when material demands dictate the need for expanded production. A 5:00 AM start time would require the quarry to meet the nighttime stationary noise standard of 45 dBA Leq or less at the nearest sensitive noise receptor property line. There are several residences along Highway 58 located to the south and east of the quarry site that would be the closest noise receptors. The plant manager, Andy Geremia, has indicated that only the secondary crushing facility would operate during the expanded business hours, and that equipment used to load and move material within the quarry would not use back-up warning buzzers during the 5:00 to 7:00 AM time period (strobe lights would be used instead).

Field investigations were conducted on April 20 & 21, 2006, to determine ambient and operational noise levels associated with varying facility and equipment uses within the quarry. All measurements were conducted adjacent to the property line of the closest residential receptor, which is located to the southeast at an approximate distance of 4,400 feet. On April 20, 2006, operational noise measurements were conducted from approximately 6:30 to 8:00 AM, during normal quarry operating hours. On April 21, 2006, an ambient noise measurement was conducted from approximately 5:00 AM to 5:15 AM.

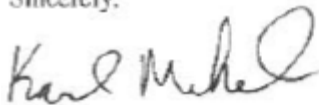
The April 20, 2006, operational noise measurements indicate that an approximate 4.0 dBA increase over ambient conditions is experienced at the closest residential property line when the secondary crusher is operating independently of all other quarry operations (refer to Table 1). Generally, a 1.0 dBA increase in the noise level is the minimum perceptible change the human ear can detect. A 3.0 dBA change is readily noticeable by most people, and a 10 dBA change would be perceived as twice as loud or approximately a doubling of the noise level.

The noise measurement conducted on 4-21-06 determined that at 5:00 AM (when the secondary crusher is proposed for extended operation), the ambient noise environment is approximately 30.5 dBA (refer to Table 2). Since the secondary crusher is estimated to add approximately 4.0 dBA to the ambient noise level at the closest sensitive receptor location, the operational noise level associated with the secondary crusher is predicted to be approximately 35 dBA, which is below the 45 dBA "nighttime" stationary noise threshold as defined in the Noise Element. Since the operational noise measurements were conducted adjacent to the nearest residential property line from the quarry, residential areas located farther away from the quarry (e.g. other surrounding residences, Santa Margarita, Garden Farms, etc.), would experience a much lower noise level associated with operation of the secondary crusher (if audible at all) because of the sound attenuation due to distance.

Therefore, under normal atmospheric and plant operating conditions, the proposed expanded business hours for operation of the secondary crusher at the rock quarry would not exceed the 45 dBA "nighttime" stationary noise threshold. The proposed expanded business hours would not represent a significant stationary noise impact due to operation of the secondary crusher.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Karl Mikel at (805) 543-7095.

Sincerely,



Karl Mikel  
Environmental Engineer

**TABLE 1\***  
**Measured Stationary Noise Levels (April 20, 2006)**

Type of Measurement	Period of Measurement	Noise Levels Leq (dBA)
No Quarry Operations	6:30 am – 6:35 am	51.5
Primary Crusher	6:45 am – 6:50 am	54.0
Secondary Crusher	6:55 am – 7:00 am	55.5
Primary + Secondary	7:10 am – 7:15 am	56.5
Rock Plant + Secondary	7:20 am – 7:30 am	57.5
Primary + Secondary + Rock Plant (Without Material)	7:35 am – 7:40 am	58.0
Primary + Secondary + Rock Plant (With Material)	7:45 am – 7:50 am	56.0

\*Note: Table 1 was used to derive noise differentials for various type of equipment operation. The base noise levels, however, included both mobile (traffic) and stationary noise sources. The critical item is that when in operation the secondary crusher adds 4 Leq (dBA) to the ambient noise at the nearest receptor.

**TABLE 2\***  
**Measured Stationary Noise Levels (April 21, 2006)**

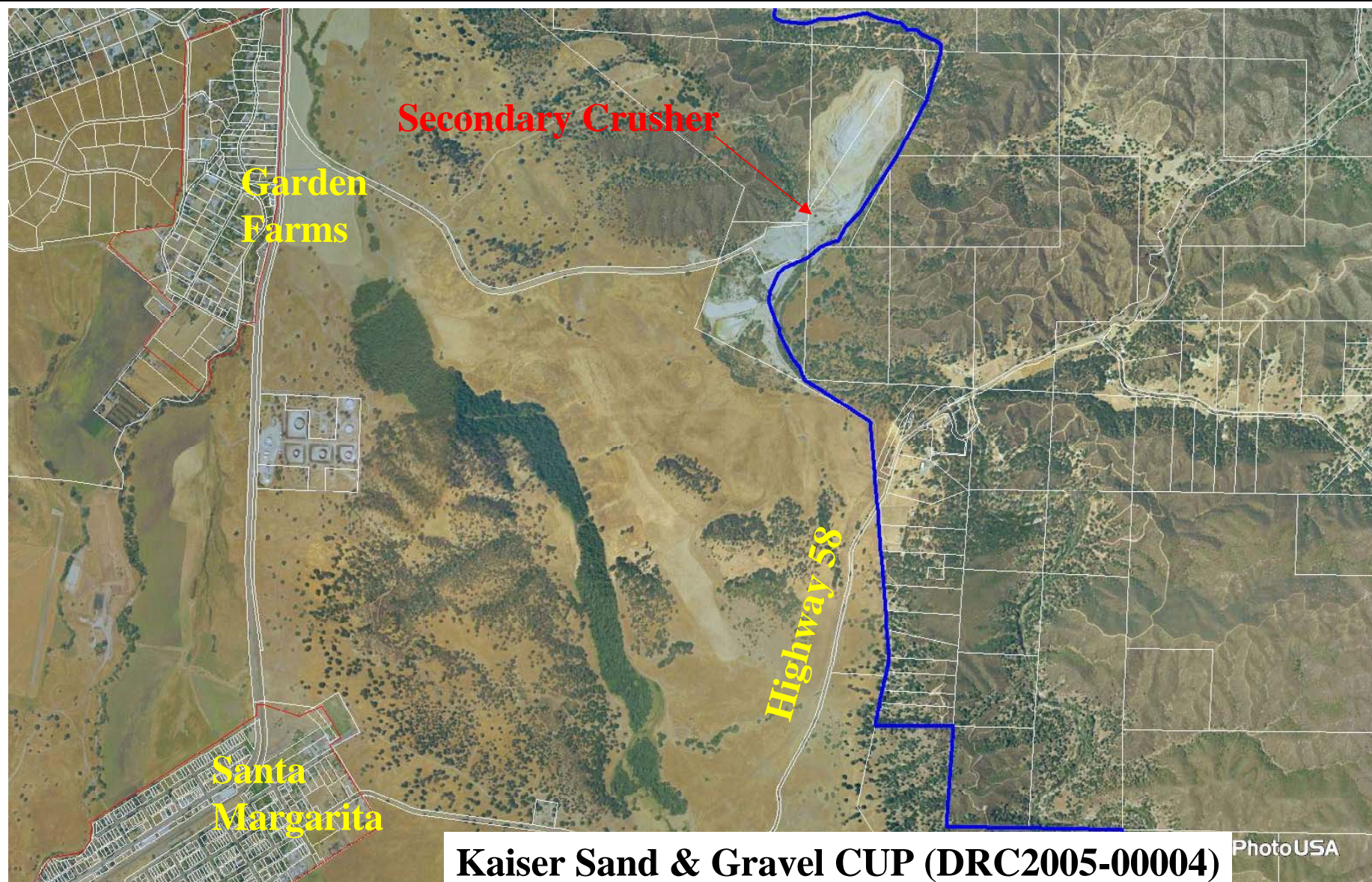
Type of Measurement	Period of Measurement	Noise Levels Leq (dBA)
Ambient Noise Environment	5:00 am – 5:15 am	30.5

\* Note: Table 2 identifies ambient sound from stationary sources only as it is taken early enough that mobile noise (i.e. traffic) was not involved.

# **APPENDIX C**

## **GRAPHICS**







**Secondary Crusher**

**Kaiser Sand & Gravel CUP (DRC2005-00004)**



